

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 170820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3894

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3470

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, TH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET AND REPORT OF CREATION OF LAO
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

REF: VIENTIANE 3458

1. AFTER SPEAKING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE REGARDING
FANCIFUL REPORT OF A LAO GOVERNMENT IN EXILE GIVEN ME
BY PRIME MINISTER, I AGAIN TELEPHONED SOUVANNA TO TELL
HIM THAT AMBASSADOR FULLY CONFIRMED MY REACTIONS IN
EVERY RESPECT. HE WAS RELIEVED AND THANKED ME. AS
REGARDS SAVANNAKHET, HE AGAIN SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED
THE TWO MINISTERS TO GO THERE. I ASKED HIM WHETHER IT
WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO CALL FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT.
HE SAID IT WOULD; IT WAS PHOUMI WHO HAD GIVEN HIM THE
REPORT, HE SAID

2. I REACHED PHOUMI AT HOME, AND TOLD HIM THAT I HAD
THREE MATTERS TO TAKE UP WITH HIM: A) PRIME MINISTER
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HAD INFORMED ME OF THE REPORT FROM BANGKOK AND I WANTED

HIM TO KNOW THIS WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS I HAD USED WITH SOUVANNA. PHOUMI MERELY SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THIS AND HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO EXPEL ALL THE LAO LEADERS WHO WERE IN THAILAND; B) AS I HAD INDICATED TO HIS CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH, ACTING DIRECTOR OF USAID RAMSEY AND I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE (VIENTIANE 3390) TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF AID AND USAID. I NOW HAD SUMMARY OF ALL USAID PROGRAMS AND WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IT TO HIM SO THAT HE COULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT OVER THE WEEKEND. HE MILDLY THANKED ME FOR IT AND SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE IT. (IT WAS SENT EARLY THIS AFTERNOON.); C) I EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN WITH REGARDS SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET WHERE IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION DEMONSTRATORS STILL DEMANDED ARRIVAL OF TWO MINISTERS, AND DELAY SIMPLY INCREASING TENSIONS WITH POTENTIAL DANGER TO AMERICANS. I SAID WE WERE PREPARED TO TAKE ALL OF THEM OUT AS SOON AS GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT IT WOULD BE SAFE TO DO SO. PHOUMI SAID HE WOULD TALK TO MINISTERS.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE PRESSING FOR EARLIEST FREEING OF ALL AMERICANS FROM SAVANNAKHET AND FOR EARLY MEETING WITH PHOUMI TO DETERMINE PGNU'S (PL'S) ATTITUDE TO AID AND USAID AND THEREBY TRY TO DEFUSE THIS AS AN ISSUE.

CHAPMAN

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